

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
September 4, 2014

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Michelle Durocher, Charles Tirone, Janine White, Susan Chapnick, Catherine Garnett, and Mike Nonni of the Commission. Cori Beckwith, Administrator, and Eileen Coleman and Curt Connors of the Commission were not present.

Spy Pond:

Mr. Nonni reported that he had picked-up the 45 or so plants that would be planted at Spy Pond Park this coming Saturday by the Friends of Spy Pond Park; he will assist with the planting activities.

Ms. Garnett presented updates on erosion issues in Spy Pond Park. She explained that the path material was not applied correctly; therefore, it is washing down into the pond during rain storms. She has experience with managing contractors hired to maintain these types of pathways and specialized knowledge is required to have the work succeed. Ms. Garnett to draft a letter to the Parks & Recreation department that this application of stabilized soil was not done correctly and maybe an alternative (permeable asphalt, pavers were mentioned) needs to be evaluated. Mr. Stevens will forward this information to the Town Manager and DPW Director so they know the Town is not getting the services it thinks it is.

The Commission discussed the stormwater discharge that goes directly down Pond Lane into Spy Pond during heavy storms. Mr. Tirone mentioned that he contacted DPW about this storm discharge issue but has not gotten a response. Mr. Tirone has a meeting scheduled with MassDOT. Mr. White emailed the town engineer about this issue as well, with no response. Ms. Garnett will also write an email to the Town Engineer about the rain run-off on Pond Lane – framing this as a chronic issue that is not caused by the Mass Ave project but may be exacerbated by it. The committee discussed how this run-off might be mitigated – maybe DOT could provide hay bales as a temporary measure to divert water.

Water Bodies Fund:

Finance Committee wants the Commission to identify water bodies that need attention in addition to the ones already managed by specific funds. Mr. Stevens reported on the FY11 through FY14 expenditures from the Fund for Spy Pond and The Reservoir to elucidate what monies were being spent for watershed assessment, monitoring, and treatment (e.g., water chestnut removal, algae treatments). For FY15, upcoming year, ~ \$19K is being spent on Spy Pond alone. Other water bodies should be evaluated and considered for expenditures of Waterbodies Funds, including: the detention pond conveying Reeds Brook at McClennen Park and Mystic Lakes. The Mystic Lakes are monitored by Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA). Ms. Chapnick pulled up the most recent water quality monitoring data for Mystic Lake from MyRWA to share with the group. The Commission needs more information, such as:

1. Recommend water quality testing for Reeds Brook
2. Invasive Growth – in Reeds Brook and detention pond: Ms. Durocher has pictures from last year and will take current pictures to compare
3. What types of data are being measured for Water Quality Assessment in “watershed assessment” reports and what data do we need to make informed decisions?

Minutes:

J. White/D. White motioned to approve the 8/21 minutes with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Enforcement Policy:

Table discussion until next meeting 9/18/14 when Ms. Coleman is present.

Fee Schedule:

Table discussion until next meeting 9/18/14 when Ms. Beckwith is present.

ACROSS Lexington Project:

Mr. White plans to attend the Arlington Board of Selectman meeting next Monday that will discuss the ACROSS Lexington project based on the Commission’s letter of support sent by Mr. Stevens.

COC Request – Wright Street Paving:

To be reviewed by Mr. Tirone and discussed at next meeting on 9/18/14.

Enforcement – 2 Princeton Rd:

Enforcement order issued - Scheduled for meeting on 9/18/14.

Enforcement – 15 Thesda:

NOI being drafted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan D. Chapnick
Commission Member